

**C. REMARKS**

The primary purpose of the Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependencies, thus avoiding extra claim fees under 37 CFR 1.492(d).

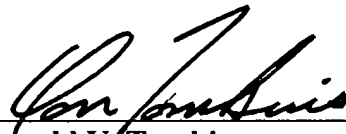
In addition, Claim 23 has been amended so as to effectively correspond to Claim 27 in independent form, insofar as Claim 27 was dependent from Claim 23 in the international application.

It is submitted that the present amendments introduce no new matter into the application. All subject matter contained in the application, as amended hereby, was expressly described in or is reasonably inferable from the originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings.

**D. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the claim amendments presented herein, such that initial processing and examination of the application will be based on the claims as presently amended.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Tomkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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